

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:PFCANNEY CB

APPROVED BY EUR/NE:JJCROWLEY

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R 070350Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

UNCLAS STATE 030712

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FI

SUBJECT:SENATOR HUMPHREY STATEMENT ON US-FINNISH RELATIONS

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY WAS  
PUBLISHED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 3, 1976:

2. BEGIN TEXT: AN IMPORTANT STEP IN FINNISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS. MR. HUMPHREY. MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE EVE OF THE OPENING OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION, A VERY IMPORTANT AGREEMENT WAS EFFECTED BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND FINNISH PRESIDENT URHO KEKKONEN. IN 1976, FINLAND WILL REPAY THE ENTIRE REMAINING AMOUNT OF ITS WORLD WAR I DEBT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THESE FUNDS WILL BE UTILIZED TO ESTABLISH A TRUST FUND TO FINANCE, ON AN ONGOING BASIS, THE UNITED STATES-FINLAND EDUCATIONAL CULTURAL PROGRAM. IT WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE US EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION IN FINLAND -- THE FULBRIGHT COMMISSION -- WHICH HAS DIRECTED THE FINISH-AMERICAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN PAST YEARS.

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FINLAND HAS BEEN REPAYING THIS DEBT SINCE 1949, AND THE PRO-

CEEDS HAVE FINANCED A LARGE PART OF OUR MUTUAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. THE FINNISH-AMERICAN PROGRAM HAS BEEN

ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL AND EXTENSIVE OF THE FULBRIGHT-HAYS PROGRAMS. SOME 2,000 FINNS HAVE TRAVELED AND STUDIED IN THE UNITED STATES, AND OVER 500 AMERICANS HAVE DONE THE SAME IN FINLAND. THIS PROGRAM HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CONTINUING WARM AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH FINLAND AND HAS OFFERED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BROADEN THEIR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL HORIZONS.

BY REPAYING THE DEBT IN FULL IN 1976 AND SETTING UP A PERMANENT TRUST FUND, WE CAN INSURE YOUNG AMERICANS AND FINNS THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXCELLENT PROGRAM IN THE YEARS TO COME.

I HAVE BEEN DELIGHTED WITH THE FRIENDLY AND GENEROUS GIFTS WHICH SO MANY NATIONS HAVE MADE TO THE UNITED STATES AS A GESTURE OF PARTICIPATION IN OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION THIS YEAR. CERTAINLY FINLAND'S CONTRIBUTION IS A MOST SIGNIFICANT ONE, THE BENEFITS OF WHICH WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY LONG AFTER THE CEREMONIAL ATMOSPHERE PREVALENT IN 1976 HAS BEEN FORGOTTEN. I KNOW THAT MY COLLEAGUES SHARE MY EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO FINLAND FOR JOINING WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THIS INVESTMENT IN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE RECOGNITION THAT THEIR ENRICHMENT WILL PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN SHAPING THE WORLD'S FUTURE. END TEXT.

3. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS CONGRESSMAN PHILLIP RUPPE WILL INSERT INTO RECORD FEBRUARY 6 SIMILAR STATEMENT ON FINNISH REPAYMENT OF DEBT TO US. TEXT WILL BE CABLED WHEN AVAILABLE. SISCO

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## Message Attributes

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